

CODE ENFORCEMENT POLICY #7-2

March 3, 1997

TO: All Inspection Staff

FROM: Steve Zaccard, Fire Marshal

SUBJECT: HAZARDOUS AREA SEPARATIONS/CORRIDOR
SEPARATION/OCCUPANCY SEPARATION/STAIRWAY
ENCLOSURE

CODE REFERENCE: 1994 Uniform Building Code Section 302.5, 303.8;
1991 Minnesota Uniform Fire Code Section 10.601, 10.602;
Appendix 1A as Amended by Rule 7510.3480, Subpart 6.

"THIS POLICY IS TO SERVE AS A GUIDE FOR YOUR ENFORCEMENT. EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY SHALL BE APPROVED BY THE FIRE MARSHAL THROUGH YOUR SUPERVISOR."

Hazardous areas, such as boiler rooms or rooms containing heating apparatus or hot water heating equipment, will be required to meet occupancy separation requirements as follows:

OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION OCCUPANCY SEPARATION REQUIRED

Groups A, B, E, F, I, M, S If largest piece of fuel equipment exceeds 400,000
BTU per hour input - 1 hour separation

NOTE: For requirements for protection of
openings in exterior walls of equipment rooms
in Groups A, E or I occupancies, see UBC
Section 303.8.

Group H 2 hour separation

NOTE: In Group H, Division 1 and 2, no openings
permitted in occupancy separation except for necessary
ducts and piping.

Group R, Division 1 If equipment serves over one dwelling unit - 1 hour
separation.

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State Amendments to the Fire Code Appendix 1A, 7510.3480 Subpart 6, require exit corridors to be one hour with 20 minute self-closing door assemblies on all room doors entering the corridor if it serves an occupant load of:

- 10 or more in R-1 and I occupancies
- 30 or more in all other occupancies.

This means that even if one hour door assemblies are not required for storage rooms, laundry rooms, equipment rooms, or small boiler rooms, the doors to any rooms entering a protected exitway must be 20-minute assemblies. Inspectors must evaluate each individual situation and take any questions to your supervisor. (See HA-1 handout)

Fire-Resistive Construction - MUFC 10.601

All required fire-resistive construction, including occupancy separations, area separation walls, exterior walls due to location on property, fire-resistive requirements based on type of construction, draft-stop partitions, and roof coverings shall be maintained as specified in the Building Code and this code and shall be properly repaired, restored, or replaced when damaged, altered, breached, penetrated, removed or improperly installed.

Separation of Occupancies - MUFC Appendix 1A, 7

Occupancy separation shall be as specified in Section 302 and Table 3B of the Uniform Building Code. Existing wood lathe and plaster in good condition or one-half inch gypsum wallboard is acceptable.

Existing Separations

Where a one-hour fire door is required in existing buildings, see Fire Door Handout (FD-1). If a new door is installed or an old door is replaced, it must be done in accordance with the Uniform Building Code.

Where a 20-minute fire door is required in existing buildings, see Fire Door Handout (FD-1). If a new door is installed or an old door is replaced, it must be done in accordance with the Uniform Building Code.

All fire doors must be self-closing or be automatic closing by smoke detectors and positive latching.

cc: Jan Gasterland, Gary Trudeau, Bill Cook, Terry Iverson, Steve Christie

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